



Are you
picking the blossoms
or the fruit?

If you pick the blossoms of an apple tree you will never taste its fruit. Just as the apple tree is created by God, so is sex. Do you think you're getting the best fruit? Why not consider God's plan outlined in the Bible:

1. Sex is a gift of God to be used in expressing love. The Bible is not prudish but even has a frank description of sexual love within marriage in the Book of Solomon.

2. God's plan involves more than sexual union. It involves permanent, unselfish commitment. God's plan involves marriage where love is expressed as concern for the whole person: emotions, intellect, and physical body. God's plan rules out fulfilling desires of the moment and disregarding future consequences.

3. This commitment results in security. The Russian people early in the 20th century threw out marriage and allowed free sex to reign. They soon found out to their dismay, that families fell apart, children were uncared for, and society was in chaos. Today they are more sold on marriage and the family than the western world.

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4. God's plan of marriage results in the most lasting joy for us. God is not anti-fun, anti-sex, anti-pleasure. He is not a Puritan.

5. God does not give us a set of rules to deprive us. He is not legalistic. He has our interests in mind when He gives concrete statements of right and wrong. The new morality and situation ethics say immorality is not always wrong, but they are trusting selfish man to act unselfishly in relationships. God speaks with His wisdom and authority when He says sex outside of marriage is wrong.

6. To have the joy within marriage that God wants us to have, we need power to be able to love unselfishly and consistently. That means power from God. His plan includes Himself as a vital part of a marriage.

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Is the new morality helping you do what you should do, or is it a clever excuse for letting you decide what you really want to do?

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Consider these reasons against the Playboy philosophy:

1. Females are reduced to playthings without intellect and emotions. Just because a man shows passing interest in a women's activities, interests, and emotions, that doesn't mean that he is not using her for her body.

2. Some results:VD, unwanted pregnancies, abortion

3. Even without VD or pregnancy, one has to live with himself. A danger exists of being hurt in sexual

relationships outside of marriage. Bruised psyches, having to remember someone used you and discarded you, can result. Also, people, especially women, do not separate body sensations from heart and soul. One needs to be loved as a whole person.

4. A relationship based on sex often does not grow. A sincere desire to know and care for the other person often falls to the wayside. The relationship is often stormy with fights and breakups. Fear of losing the partner if the sex given is not sufficiently satisfying is always lurking. Marriage does not give up when the going is rough or faults are exposed or a more attractive person comes along.

5. Does experience before marriage mean you'll make a partner? What will promiscuous sex help in a marriage union which requires total commitment to deepen understanding and complete love? Many people want virgins for marriage partners but experience for themselves.

6. Promiscuous sex is a refusal to put others' interests first. It even ignores the desires of future marriage partners. It's "me, me, me."

7. Just because everyone is doing it, doesn't make it right. When have the masses been completely right?

8. The existence of the sexual desire does not justify its immediate fulfillment. What would you say if a friend saw some meat in a store window and his hunger was stimulated so he reasoned he had a "right" to it whether he paid for it or not?

9. Sex outside of marriage causes guilt. It causes some to become callous to God's law written on their

hearts.

10. God judges sex outside marriage. He says those who continue to practice fornication and adultery will not enter heaven but go to everlasting punishment. (I. Cor. 6+9-11)

Yet, there is forgiveness for sexual sin because Jesus Christ paid on the cross the penalty for ALL sin. If you confess you are a sinner and believe Jesus died for you, you shall be saved from hell. This is a commitment like marriage. Many marriages fail but not because God's plan is bad, but because the people are not following God's total plan. God's total plan includes asking Him into your life as Lord.

God wants the best for you; the fruit, not the blossoms. Are you picking the blossoms or waiting for the fruit?

For further information on how you can know God and lead an abundant life, write:

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Check the Daily for Christian Bible studies on the St. Paul and Minneapolis campuses.